

BOOK REVIEWS

MICHAEL E. BURTON, LESLIE M. SHAW, JEROME J. SCHENTAG and WILLIAM E. EVANS. *Applied Pharmacokinetics & Pharmacodynamics Principles of Therapeutic Drug Monitoring.* Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2006. 867 pp, \$ (hardcover), ISBN0-7817-4431-8.

Reviewed By: Pamela J. Sims, PharmD, PhD

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Many colleges and schools of pharmacy have replaced or evolved the course in their curricula that formerly presented clinical pharmacokinetics of specific drugs and/or populations to a course which provides students the knowledge and skills to optimize and monitor drug therapy. The course content, therefore, becomes much more global, focusing less on mathematics and more on concepts, interpretation, and decision making.

The fourth edition of *Applied Pharmacokinetics & Pharmacodynamics Principles of Therapeutic Drug Monitoring* is an excellent text to guide the student and faculty member through this important information. As the editors state in the preface, the fourth edition has retained the book's original goal "to provide a rigorous, yet practical, text on the application of pharmacokinetic methods, pharmacodynamic principles, and relevant pharmacotherapeutic data to optimize drug therapy for individual patients".

Since the third edition, published in 1992, growth of information and knowledge concerning these topics has been explosive. The extensive updating and rewriting of the 28 chapters repeated from the third edition provides the reader with contemporary information supported by historically important concepts. The chapters concerning antiasthmatic drugs, hiv drugs, anticonvulsants, antineoplastics, heparins, and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, and salicylates have been modified and expanded to provide the reader with contemporary knowledge in these important and rapidly changing areas of drug therapy. The 5 new chapters address topics including critical evaluations of methods for therapeutic drug monitoring, tacrolimus, mycophenolic acid, sirolimus, and antipsychotics, which are increasingly important areas for patient care and monitoring.

The organization of the chapters in a format consistent with the third edition, using the major headings of Clinical Pharmacokinetics, Pharmacodynamics, Clinical Application of Pharmacokinetic Data, Analytical Methods, a Prospectus and Case Studies, provides the reader a comprehensive view of therapeutic drug monitoring.

Upon completion of a course utilizing this text, students planning to pursue any area of pharmacy practice should feel confident and competent to optimally dose and monitor a patient's drug therapy.

This is an excellent textbook choice to support a comprehensive and rigorous course in therapeutic drug monitoring. For the student to realize the greatest benefit from this text and the course utilizing it, a prerequisite course(s) and text(s) addressing basic pharmacokinetic, biopharmaceutic, and pharmacodynamic principles should be required and completed. Additionally, the comprehensive and rigorous nature of this text requires sufficient time for the student to achieve competency in these areas.

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JOYCE A. GENERALI AND CHRISTINE A. BERGER. *Quick Review Pharmacy.* New York: McGraw Hill; 2006. 378 pp, \$34.95 (paperback w/ CD-ROM), ISBN 0-07-144674-5

Reviewed By: Julie J. Wilkinson, PharmD

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Quick Review Pharmacy, 13th edition, offers practice examination questions to aid pharmacy students and graduates preparing for the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination (NAPLEX). The book provides an efficient approach to preparing for licensure through a question and answer format. It includes a CD-ROM that presents the questions in a format similar to the computer-based testing used by NAPLEX.

There are 6 major chapters made up entirely of multiple-choice questions. The name of each chapter and the number of questions included are as follows: Pharmaceutics/Pharmacokinetics, 150; Pharmacology, 215; Microbiology and Public Health, 110; Chemistry and Biochemistry, 140; Physiology and Pathology, 95; Clinical Pharmacy, 329. The answers to the questions are given at the end of each chapter with a brief 1- or 2-sentence explanation. The Clinical Pharmacy chapter includes groups of questions based on a patient's medication profile or a prescription order. Additionally, this chapter includes a section that targets medications marketed in the years 2002-2004. These questions are grouped according to therapeutic category and require matching the drug with its specific indication.

The book includes a brief (10-page) introductory section titled "Review Tips" which includes items that may be beneficial for memorization prior to taking the examination. Common conversions are given to help in solving pharmaceutical calculations. Drug-specific lists include such topics as common medications and their antidotes, drugs to avoid in pregnancy, and drugs that are known to cause various conditions such as hepatic failure, pancreatitis, photosensitivity reactions, and hyperglycemia. Additional topics include common laboratory values, pharmaceutical references, and compounding agents. An appendix lists newly approved drugs for 2004 along with indications and basic data. The CD-ROM includes the same questions as the book and allows the user to take the questions for specific chapters or to choose practice examinations with the questions given in random order. The format is similar to taking the NAPLEX and includes a calculator and timer. The software provides report cards and calculates performance in each of the NAPLEX competency areas.

This book is similar to other NAPLEX review books. Its advantages include a portable size and reasonable price. The review tips are useful and the CD-ROM practice examinations are a valuable tool in preparing for the format of the NAPLEX. One drawback may be the brevity of the answer explanations; however this fits the concise nature of the book and allows students to identify concepts that need to be reviewed from other sources. Another disadvantage is the small number of multiple-multiple or K-type questions, which are challenging for students taking NAPLEX. Overall, Quick Review Pharmacy is a valuable tool to aid students preparing for licensure and should be included in pharmacy school libraries and resource centers along with other similar references.

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THOMAS P. REINDERS. *The Pharmacy Professional's Guide to Resumes, CVs, & Interviewing*, 2nd edition. Washington, DC: American Pharmacist Association; 2006. 164 pp, \$25 (softcover w/ CD-ROM). ISBN 1-58212-076-5.

Reviewed By: Kristi W. Kelley, PharmD

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With the diverse career opportunities that are available, many pharmacists find themselves pursuing new jobs

more often than they anticipated when they first began their pharmacy careers. The second edition of *The Pharmacy Professional's Guide to Resumes, CVs, and Interviewing* can serve as an excellent resource to pharmacists navigating the job market whether for the first time or when changing career paths. The book is organized in chapters with titles that accurately describe the content covered, including assessing career goals, preparing resumes, curriculum vitae, portfolios, and letters, as well as interview tips. Throughout the chapters, the reader will find bulleted lists, text boxes, and tables to emphasize key points that they can easily refer to at a later date. The chapters explain concepts in detail, which seasoned practitioners might find unnecessary; however, students and new practitioners will find the explanations helpful. A student who is entering the job market for the first time might be more likely to review each chapter while a practicing pharmacist could review the chapter that corresponds to the information on which he/she desires additional insight. Since there does seem to be a struggle with professionalism among some students and young practitioners, the chapters, "Presenting a Professional Image" and "The Interview: Before, During, and After," are excellent resources to help prepare for interviewing, including an extensive list of interview questions divided into categories for easy review. The etiquette tips are up-to-date and include information to address cell phones etiquette as well as email communication. Another useful feature of the book is the inclusion of 15 example resumes and 6 example curriculum vitae (CVs) that represent technicians, students, and practitioners from a variety of settings, as well as those with different years of experience. The example resumes and CVs have notations on them to help the reader recognize strong features as well as areas for improvement. The 20 example letters encompass responding to a position announcement, requesting an interview, and a thank you letter following an interview, as well as how to politely decline a position. A CD-ROM accompanies the book with information that corresponds to the key points in each chapter. Advantages to using the CD-ROM are: expanded information on areas which the reader would like to focus; accessibility to online resources via hyperlinks; and links to the example resumes, CVs, and letters are available in Microsoft Word to help illustrate formats.

Because this book includes information on determining a career path as well as pursuing career goals, a student could utilize it when obtaining a residency, a fellowship, or a first job, and continue to refer to it when pursuing subsequent jobs. Although I think students might benefit most from the comprehensive nature of the topics covered in the book, I think practicing pharmacists could utilize it

as a career resource as well. I believe that educators as well as practicing pharmacists would find the book useful when discussing tips for writing letters, formatting resumes and CVs, and appropriate etiquette during interviews with students, residents, and younger practitioners.

A variety of books are available to help people present themselves in the best light as they pursue new jobs; however, resources currently available do not focus specifically on the field of pharmacy. This book fills that niche for students, residents, and pharmacists in a variety of practice settings, as well as pharmacy technicians. I intend to use the book when discussing formatting CVs, resumes, and job interviews with pharmacy students. Since the book is economical for the resources you receive, I would be comfortable recommending that students purchase this book as a reference to use when preparing for the next step in their careers.

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JAMES E. TISDALE AND DOUGLAS A. MILLER, EDITORS. *Drug-Induced Diseases: Prevention, Detection, and Management*. Bethesda: American Society of Health-System Pharmacists; 2005. 870pp; \$106.00 (hardcover) ISBN 1-58528-086-0. Reviewed By: Kevin A. Clauson, PharmD

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The editors of *Drug-Induced Diseases: Prevention, Detection, and Management* begin by defining drug-induced disease (DID) as, “an unintended effect of a drug that may result in morbidity or mortality with symptoms sufficient to prompt a patient to seek medical attention and/or require hospitalization.” They proceed to explore these effects via the 12 major sections of the text. Section 1 provides an overview on the impact of DID on the health care system, including contributing factors and postmarketing surveillance. Sections 2-11 are focused on specific categories of diseases/organ systems (eg, neurological, psychiatric, gastrointestinal, etc). Section 12 is a miscellaneous category that includes teratogenicity. Each Section is further subdivided into chapters according to specific types of diseases. Over 80 content experts contributed to the 53 chapters that comprise the book.

Each chapter centers on a comprehensive, referenced table of causative agents. Those tables are tailored to the specific disease and may contain additional information such as incidence, prevalence, mechanism, severity, and notes/comments. The tables include prescription and non-prescription drugs, illicit/recreational drugs, and in some cases, dietary supplements such as herbal products that have been implicated as causative agents. The rest of the chapter typically features the relevant information dealing with epidemiology, presentation, risk factors, and morbidity and mortality. The most clinically useful highlights of each chapter provide key elements of both prevention and management for dealing with drug-induced diseases and their deleterious effects. Each chapter also closes with baseline information to communicate to patients, followed by a reference section. The text and primary table (of causative agents) is supplemented by a number of other figures and tables. These are chiefly in support of the text and include clearly presented lists of monitoring parameters, manifestations, and other considerations. An appendix included in the book is comprised of an alphabetical listing of drugs by generic name with the disease(s) that each may induce along with the corresponding chapter number(s). This helps to offset an index that might benefit from additional entries.

Perhaps future editions could be even better with a few additions. An appendix or table compiling all of the dietary supplements or herbal causative agents might prove useful for clinical practice and as a reference. If the scope permitted, a short chapter in the Miscellaneous Section of the book on related drug-induced nutrient depletion would also be welcome. Finally, given the high degree of utility of this information, a version that could be accessed on a personal digital assistant (PDA) would be desirable.

Overall, the book is very well organized and the consistent use of subheadings throughout the chapters really aids in navigating the book efficiently. The information is presented clearly and includes a wide range of topics. There are some instances in which a little more depth of information would be useful, but the editors largely accomplish the objective of providing the first book on drug-induced diseases of such magnitude while maintaining clarity and ease of use.

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